

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 PRS-01 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4633

SECDEF IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

HQ 3AF RAF MILDENHALL

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 14039

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, OTRA, US, UK, FR, DA, NATO

SUBJECT: VISIT OF SECRETARY SCHLESINGER TO LONDON

REF: A) LONDON 13912

B) STATE 214931

1. PROTOCOL OFFICE OF MOD CALLED EMBOFF TODAY TO INFORM US THAT IT IS HMG'S WISH TO GREET SECDEF AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL AND TO DO SO AT THE ROYAL SUITE, ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF HEATHROW, ON 24 SEPTEMBER AT 0930 HOURS.

2. RE PARA 3 REF A, IF AFFIRMATIVE, WEDNESDAY NIGHT 24 SEPTEMBER WOULD BE A PREFERRED DATE FOR BRITISH BUT THEY RECOGNIZE TIREDNESS ON US SIDE LIKELY TO MAKE 25 SEPTEMBER OUR CHOICE. ABSOLUTELY NO COMMITMENT MADE BY EMBASSY TO DO ANYTHING, BUT FROM VIEWPOINT OF PROTOCOL -- AND SINCE US SECDEFS HAVE NOT VISITED UK FOR LONG TIME AND SINCE PLANNED ITINERARY DOES NOT GIVE GREAT EXPOSURE OF SECDEF TO UK OFFICIALDOM -- WE RECOMMEND THAT BRITISH HOSPITALITY BE RECIPROCATED. FUND
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CITATION WILL BE REQUIRED.

3. TO FACILITATE UK PLANNING OF VISIT, MOD ASKS FOR ANSWERS ASAP TO FOLLOWING: A) COMPOSITION OF SECDEF'S PARTY IN "RANK ORDER;" B) KIND OF AIRCRAFT TO BE USED FOR FLIGHT; I) ETA AND PLACE OF ARRIVAL (NOTE PARA 1); D) AGENDA ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION; AND E) BIOGRAPHICAL DATA ON SENIOR OFFICIALS.

4. RE IISS, BERTRAM CONFIRMS THAT INSTITUTE WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO HAVE SECDEF FOR A MID-DAY MEETING ON SEPT 26 AND UNDERSTANDS NECESSITY FOR "EARLY DEPARTURE." FOLLOWING POINTS WERE EMPHASIZED: A) INSTITUTE POLICY DOES NOT PERMIT USE OF IISS FOR EXPOSURE OF VISITING VIPS TO PUBLIC MEDIA AND NORMALLY ALL IISS MEETINGS ARE "OFF-THE-RECORD." HOWEVER, IN CASE OF PROPOSED SECDEF VISIT, IISS WILL GLADLY MAKE MEETING "ON-THE-RECORD" AND A Q & A PERIOD FOLLOWING A 30-40 MINUTE TALK IS WELCOMED; B) SINCE MOST "JOURNALISTS OF QUALITY" ASSIGNED TO LONDON ARE IISS MEMBERS, AND SINCE INSTITUTE WILL GLADLY INVITE ANY WE SUGGEST WHO MAY NOT BE MEMBERS, SECDEF TALKS FOLLOWED BY Q & A PERIOD COULD BE USEFUL FORUM FOR EFFECTIVELY PUTTING FORWARD HIS CONCERNS AND VIEWS; C) BERTRAM SUGGESTED THAT SECDEF HAVE "A DEFINED THEME BUT APPROPRIATELY VAGUE, OF COURSE" TO ATTRACT THE ANTICIPATED 60-80 TURNOUT OF MEMBERS FOR EVENT. THINKING ALOUD, BERTRAM MADE BOLD TO SUGGEST TWO SUBJECT RUBRICS (1) DEVELOPMENT (OR EVOLUTION) OF STRATEGIC DETERRANCE (FIRST CHOICE) AND (2) DIRECTION OF US DEFENSE POLICY. ALASTAIR BUCHAN WILL CHAIR MEETING IF IT FALLS INTO PLACE.

5. IISS ANNUAL CONFERENCE LEAVES LONDON OFFICE DENUDED OF SENIOR OFFICIALS. GIVEN LEAD-TIME NEEDED TO SET UP ARRANGEMENTS AND INVITE GUESTS, ET CETERA BERTRAM BEGGED THAT WE GIVE FINAL CONFIRMATION TOGETHER WITH SUBJECT TOPIC FOR SECDEF TALK NLT 15 SEPTEMBER.

6. RE PARA 2 REF B, AMBASSADOR AND MRS. RICHARDSON ARE DISAPPOINTED TO LEARN THAT MRS. SCHLESINGER IS NOT CONFIDENTIAL

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ACCOMPANYING SECDEF AND UNDERSTAND HIS WISH TO STAY WITH HIS STAFF. AMBASSADOR LOOKS FORWARD TO SEEING SECRETARY SCHLESINGER AT MASON'S LUNCH 24 SEPTEMBER.

RICHARDSON

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